EASTMAN AND LAIRD'S
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA
TURTLES
GUEST STARRING
CEREBUS
NO. 8
$1.50
$2.10 IN CANADA

The first six months of 1986, Peter and I will never forget. Speaking for myself, I believe that if I passed away tomorrow, I would die a happy, happy man! HaHaHa!

This spring has given us so many things -- our first full-color turtle story (not to mention it being a collaboration with someone I've idolized for the last decade)... the chance to introduce a few new and very talented folks like Mike Dooney, Tony Basilicato, Rowen Pascal, Jim Lawson, and Steve Lavigne... and we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to pay tribute to a man who I believe is the founding father of comics and graphic storytelling as we know them today. Thanks for all you've taught us, Jack!

Now, as if that wasn't enough -- with the assistance of an extremely talented writer/artist, we are producing our very first "cross-over"!

Fortunately for me, I first stumbled onto Dave Sim's Cerebus in a pile of underground comics in my hometown of Portland, Maine's own Moonshadow comic store. It was issue #23, entitled "The Beguiling", and I was blown away from the start. At first glance, Cerebus seemed to be a dark, straightforward (with the exception of the main character's species), well-drawn, serious barbarian adventure... then I read it!

To say the least, I haven't missed an issue since #23, and have also managed to pick up all the early books through Dave's Swords of Cerebus reprint collections. Cerebus is a book that I believe every comics fan should read at least once -- and perhaps for you too that will be all it takes to get you hooked!

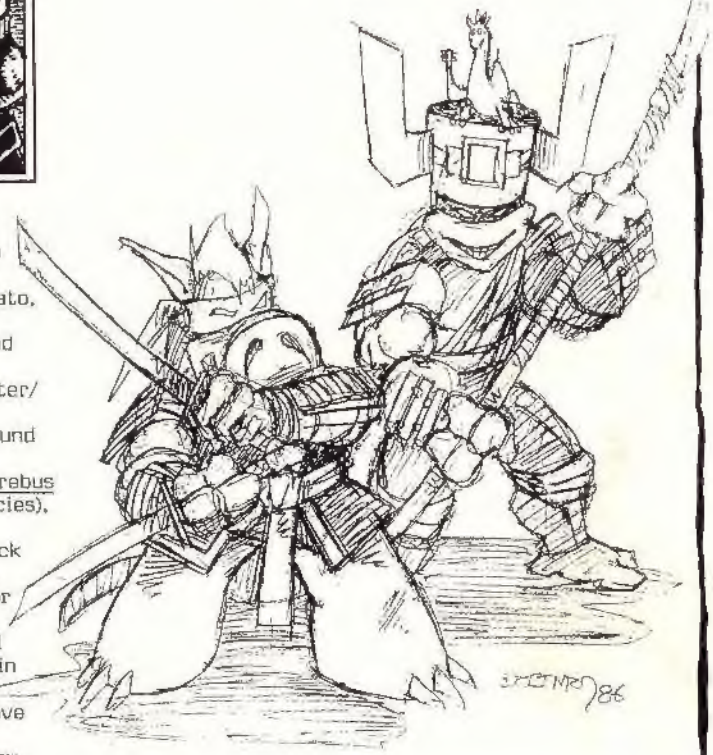
Anyway, in the following forty-five pages (yes, forty-five of them!) I hope you will find not only an exciting, kinda bizarre adventure for the turtles, but also a just plain fun story for all the characters involved.

Before I forget, both Peter and I want to extend a great big special thanks to Dave Sim (and Gerhard!) for all the wonderful touches he and Cerebus gave our story. We'd also like to thank Steve Lavigne and Michael Dooney for the production assistance they gave us on this issue.

Enjoy!

Kevin

(Special Announcement: Originally, this book was to have contained, as a back-up story, a five-page RION 2990 story by Ryan Brown. However, due to a multitude of confounding circumstances, we didn't get it into this issue... but it will appear for sure in TMNT #9!)



Any similarities between the characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names persons and/or institutions is not intended and if it exists is purely coincidental.

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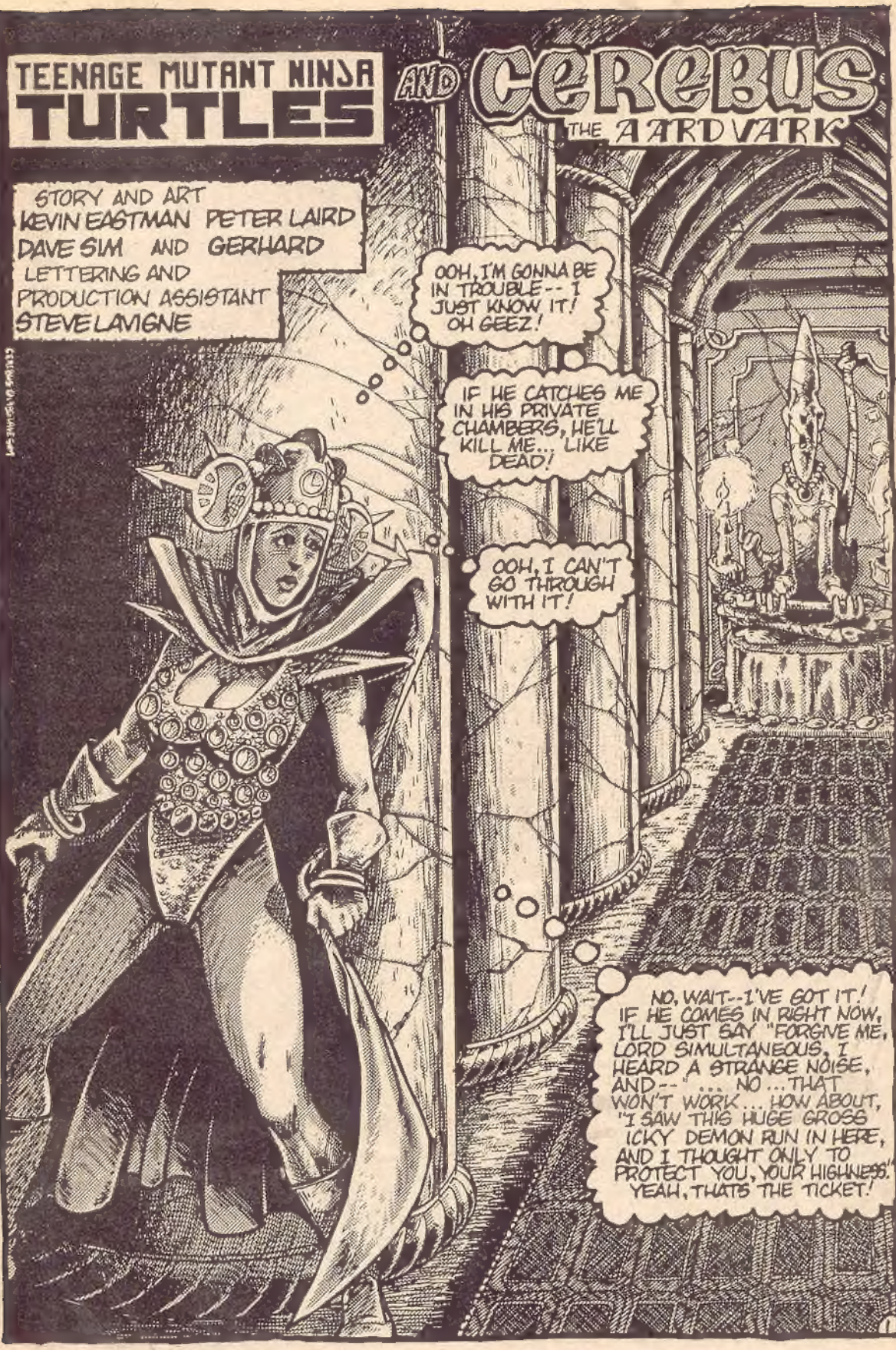
Mirage Studios, P.O. Box 1218, Sharon, CT 06069

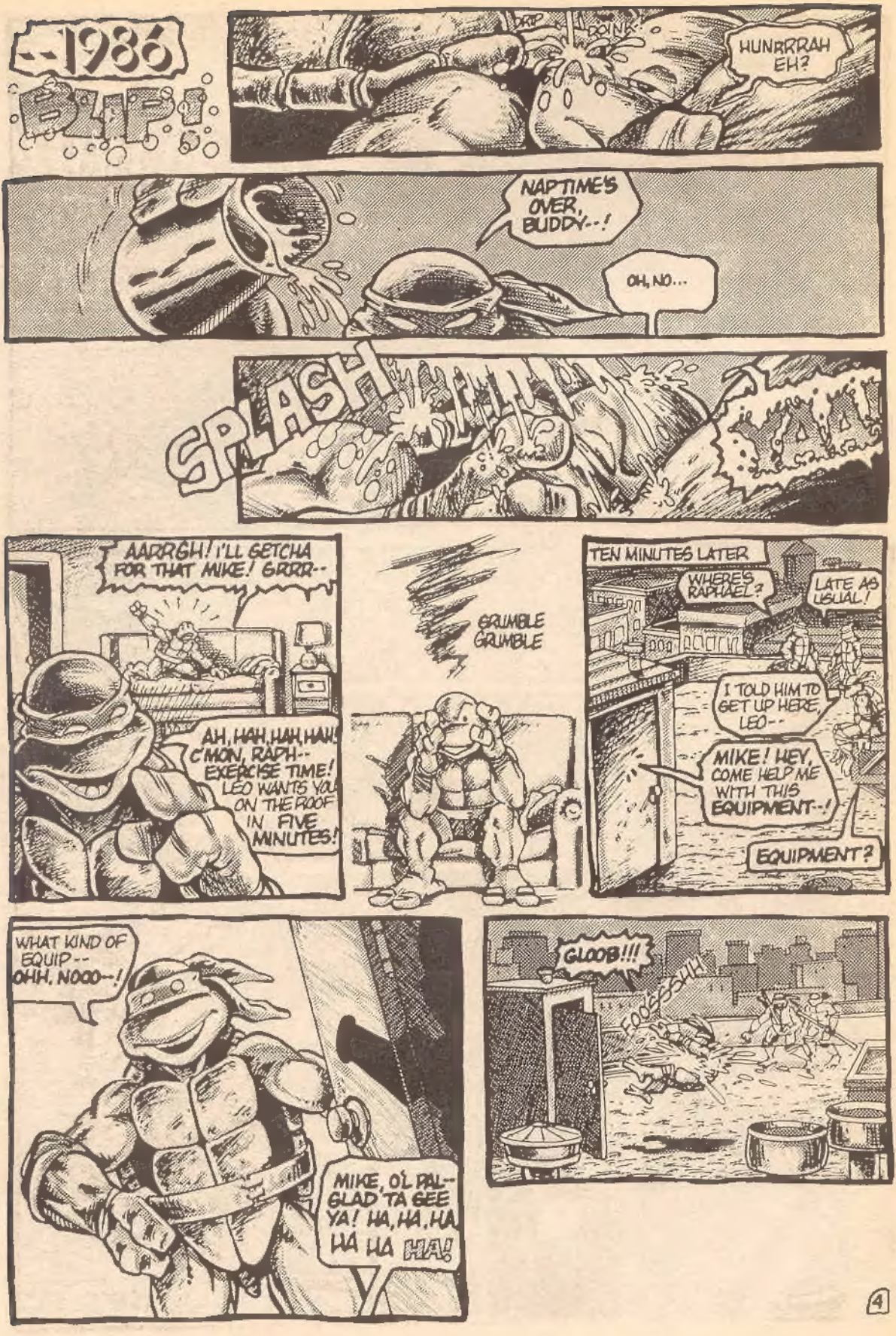
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES AND CEREBUS THE AARDVARK

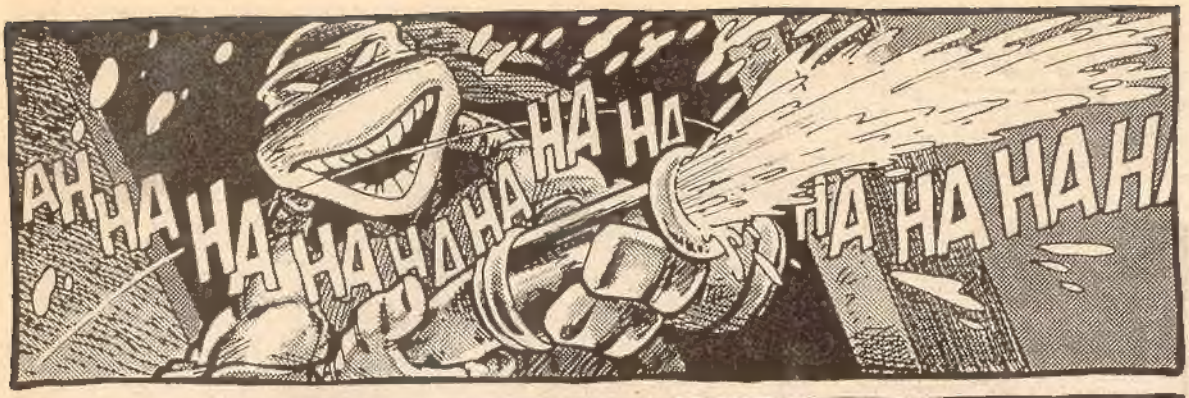
STORY AND ART
KEVIN EASTMAN PETER LAIRD
DAVE SIM AND GERHARD
LETTERING AND
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
STEVE LAVIGNE


OOH, I'M GONNA BE IN TROUBLE-- I JUST KNOW IT! OH GEEZ!
IF HE CATCHES ME IN HIS PRIVATE CHAMBERS, HE'LL KILL ME... LIKE DEAD!
OOH, I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT!
NO, WAIT--I'VE GOT IT! IF HE COMES IN RIGHT NOW, I'LL JUST SAY "FORGIVE ME, LORD SIMULTANEOUS, I HEARD A STRANGE NOISE, AND-- ... NO ... THAT WON'T WORK ... HOW ABOUT, "I SAW THIS HUGE GROSS ICKY DEMON RUN IN HERE, AND I THOUGHT ONLY TO PROTECT YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS." YEAH, THATS THE TICKET!

OH, GET REAL, RENET! YOU CAN'T LET THAT OLD FOSSIL RUN YOUR LIFE FOREVER!
I MEAN, I DIDN'T EVEN WANT THIS APPRENTICE TIMEGTRESS JOB-- MOM AND DAD MADE ME TAKE IT, TO LEARN LIKE RESPONSIBILITY AND STUFF...
BUT PROBABLY THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS THING I'VE LEARNED..
... IS THAT MY PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL TO ANY PLACE AND TIME IS DOWN AT THE OTHER END OF THIS HALL!
OOH, I'LL BE KILLED FORSURE-- I KNOW IT!
OH GEEZ, OH GOD! HERE WE GO, BABE-- NO GUTS, NO GLORY!
AND THERE IT IS -- THE SCEPTRE THAT CONTAINS THE SACRED SANDS OF TIME! OLD SIMULTANEOUS SAID THAT WHOEVER HOLDS THE SCEPTRE--
-- HAS THE POWER TO JOURNEY TO ANY TIME AND PLACE IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSES-- JUST BY WISHING IT.
OOH WOW! AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS... IS...
...TAKE IT!
RENET!
POOP!
2

OH WOW OH GOD OH GEEZ--! L-L-LORD S-SIMULTANEOUS--!!
REPLACE MY SCEPTRE, YOU BRAT!!!
W-WAIT, MASTER-- P-PLEASE! I-IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! G-SEE, I SAW A BIG DEMON, AN'-- WHOOPS!
OOH--!
BOMP
HMMPH! A LIAR, A THIEF-- AND A KLUTZ! I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD, YOU VIXEN!
N-NO! PLEASE--! PLEASE, SCEPTRE-- --TAKE ME AWAY, ANYWHERE, NOW!
FIZZ!
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!
I NEED A PLACE...
OH! UMM... AH, NEW YORK? I LOVE NEW YORK! THAT'S WHERE I WANT TO GO!
STOP! I, SIMULTANEOUS, LORD OF TIME, COMMAND YOU TO STOP!
I NEED A DATE...
HUH? WELL, I COULD PROBABLY FIX YOU UP WITH A CUTE WALKING STICK--
A YEAR, STUPID!
OH! UH,--UM OH, GEEZ--
19--AH--
3

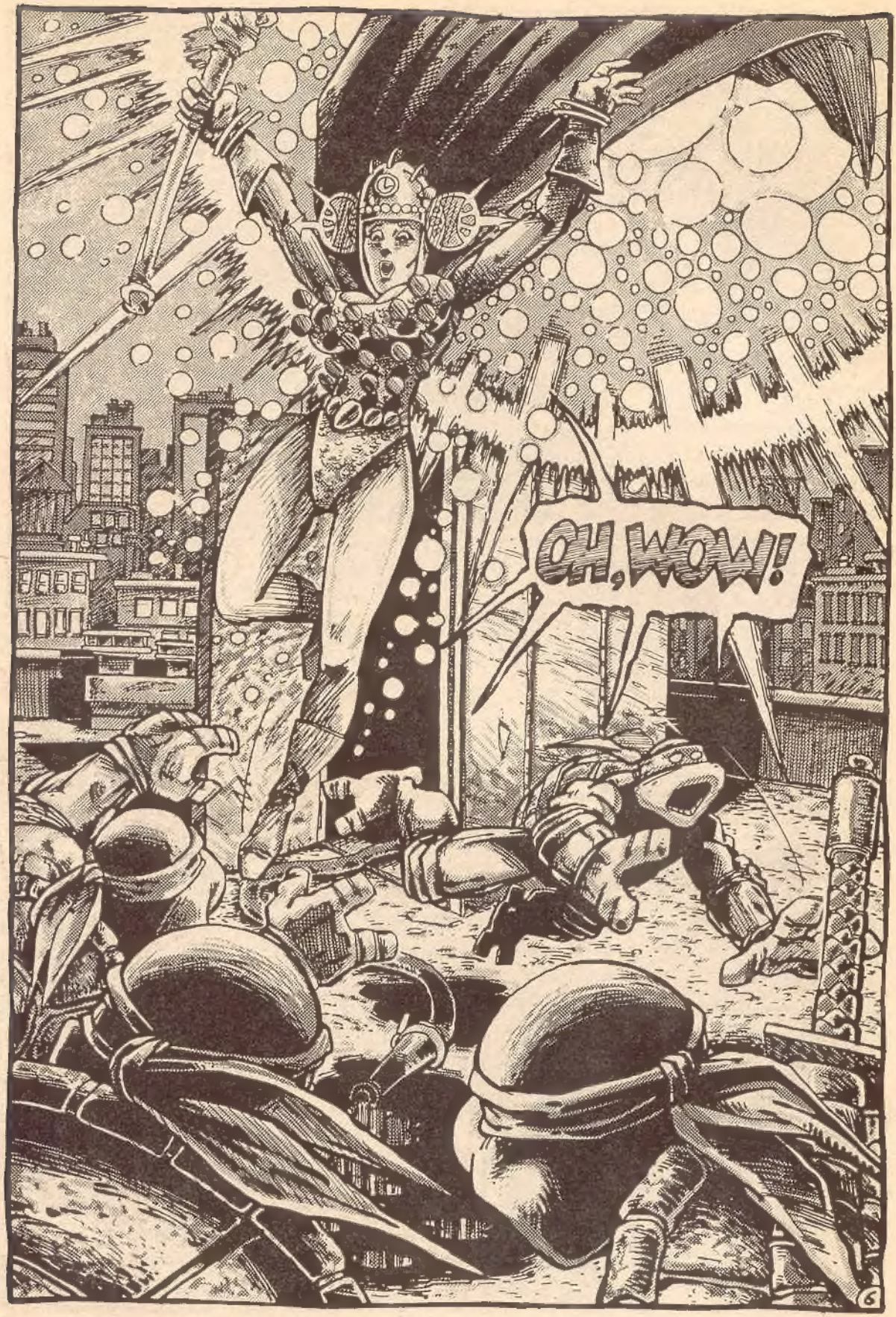

1986
BIP!
DRIP
DOINK
HUNRRRAH EH?
NAPTIME'S OVER, BUDDY--!
OH, NO...
SPLASH
AAARGH! I'LL GETCHA FOR THAT MIKE! GRRR--
AH, HAH, HAH, HAH! C'MON, RAPH-- EXERCISE TIME! LEO WANTS YOU ON THE ROOF IN FIVE MINUTES!
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
TEN MINUTES LATER
WHERE'S RAPHAEL?
LATE AS USUAL!
I TOLD HIM TO GET UP HERE, LEO--
MIKE! HEY, COME HELP ME WITH THIS EQUIPMENT--!
EQUIPMENT?
WHAT KIND OF EQUIP-- OHH, NOOO--!
MIKE, OL' PAL-- GLAD 'TA SEE YA! HA, HA, HA HA HA HA!
GLOOB!!!
FOOSSHH


AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA H

RAPHAEL, YOU CREEP!
GLUB!!!
SPLASH!

ZZZZZZZZZ
HA HAH. HA HA HAH HEE HEE!
YOU--HA--YOU GUYS LOOK SO FUNNY--
HUH?

CRACKLE
ZZZ
CRACK
WHAT IS THAT!?
5


OH, WOW!
6

OW!
BLIP
LOOKOUT!
OOF!
UGH!
AAAAH!
W-WHAT ARE-Y-YOU?!
AH, DONATELLO-- AH--I'M A--AH NINJA TURTLE. WHO ARE YOU--?!
OH,--NICE TA MEETCHA!
UM--I'M RENET!
UMFP! LET ME UP!
HEY, WAITA MINUTE! ISN'T THIS SUPPOSED TO BE NEW YORK IN THE YEAR, 1986?
AH... YEAH--
--IT IS!
GO?
7

OOH, I HATE THIS HAT--!
OKAY, BUT I DON'T GET IT-- AREN'T THERE SUPPOSED TO BE, LIKE, REAL... UM... PEOPLE-- Y'KNOW, LIKE ME-- AT THIS TIME? I MEAN-- DOES EVERYONE ELSE HERE LOOK LIKE YOU?
OH, NO--MOST EVERYBODY HERE LOOKS LIKE YOU... SORT OF. WE'RE KIND OF...AH... SPECIAL!
YEAH, SPECIAL!
WHATTA BABE!
NO KIDDING? LIKE, THIS REALLY IS THE "BIG APPLE" CIRCA 1986? SWEAR TO GOD? FORSURE?
YOU BET!
OOH, WICKED COOL! I'VE GOT TO HAVE A CLOSER LOOK!
OH, YEAH!
THIS IS TOO WILD! LIKE, THIS IS REALLY IT! THE CITY OF LIGHTS AND LOVE! SUBWAYS AND SUSHI BARS!
I'M REALLY GONNA LOVE IT HERE!

HEY--WHATS WITH THE SKY?
IT'S LIGHTING UP AGAIN-- RIGHT ABOVE US!
OOH, NOO! HE'S FOUND ME!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHO'S FOUND YOU, RENET? A FRIEND OF YOURS?
NO--NOT A FRIEND-- MY MASTER--
--LORD SIMULTANEOUS!
RENET!!!
THE SCEPTRE--! IT'S MY ONLY HOPE--!
GURK!
OMPF!
BAM!

P-PLEASE-- YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!
H-HE'S GONNA KILL ME!
OK, OK--! DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE SAFE!
WE'LL PROTECT YOU!
HERE'S THE STAFF YOU DROPPED, RENET!
BEGONE, YOU PINHEADED MORTAL FREAKS! THE GIRL IS MINE!
LEAVE NOW! -- OR I'LL FRY ALL OF YOU WHERE YOU STAND!
FREAKS, HUH?! C'MON DOWN HERE, CHROME DOME, AND WE'LL SHOW YOU WHAT'S WHAT!!!
OH, GEEZ--! THANK GOD I HAVE THE SCEPTRE-- I'LL USE IT TO BOP OUT OF HERE BUT I CAN'T LEAVE THOSE FOUR UTTLE GUYS HERE-- SIMULTANEOUS WILL ZAP 'EM!
SCEPTRE, TAKE ALL FIVE OF US AWAY-- NOW!
I NEED A PLACE ..

STOP! DESIST!
DO NOT USE THE... SCEPTRE..
OH, DAMN!
TAKE US TO A ANYPLACE

UH AHEM!
OKAY, NOW I KNOW TODAY IS TUESDAY, BUT WHAT YEAR IS IT?
HMM.. I DON'T THINK WE RECORD THAT YET *
AHEM!
COUGH! COUGH!
GOTTA HAVE AH WORD WORD WITH YA, SIR!
THAT'S ONE BAD-LOOKING FORTRESS, EH?
GIVES ME GOOSE BUMPS!
CEREBUS DISTINCTLY REMEMBERS TELLING YOU NOT TO WAKE HIM UP UNTIL SUNDOWN
THIS BETTER BE GOOD
12

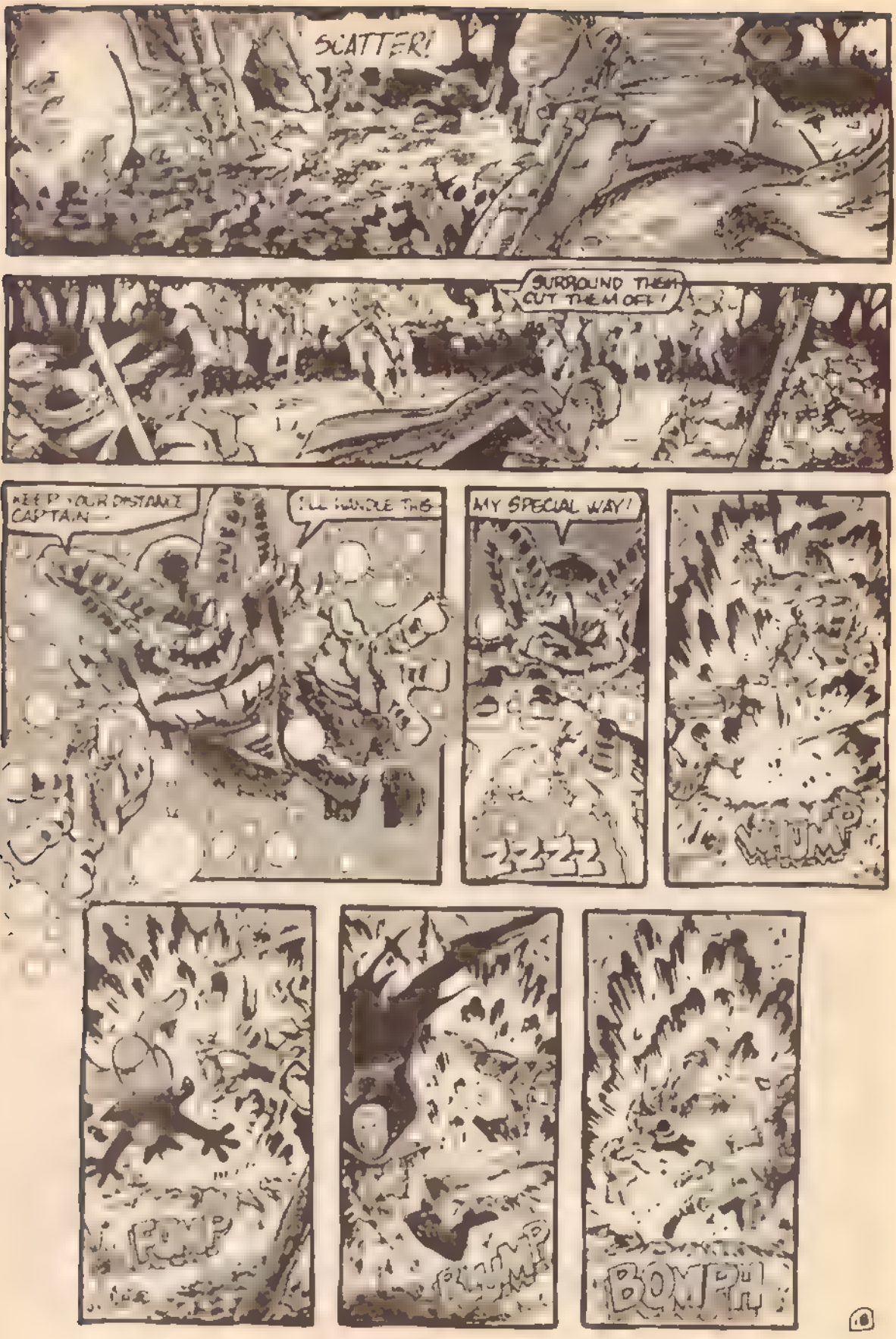
EH, WELL AH TH LADS AN, I AVE BEEN AH THINKIN OVER THE WHOLE BLOODY AH DEAL AN AH
I MEAN, WHEN YOU SAID 'IT'LL BE LIKE STEALIN THE NOSE OFF A LEFTY R'. WE AH DIDN'T EXPECT TO AH ENCOUNTER A FORTRESS OF SUCH ER MAGNITUDE
ANY OW AH WHAT IM TRYIN TA SAY IS UM WELL WE'RE NOT TH' FIRST TAKIN A POWDER LEARN, YA KNOW?
CEREBUS THINKS THAT MIGHT PROVE
WITH NOTHING BUT BONE FRAGMENTS HOLDING YOUR KNEES AND ANKLES TOGETHER
YA KNOW?

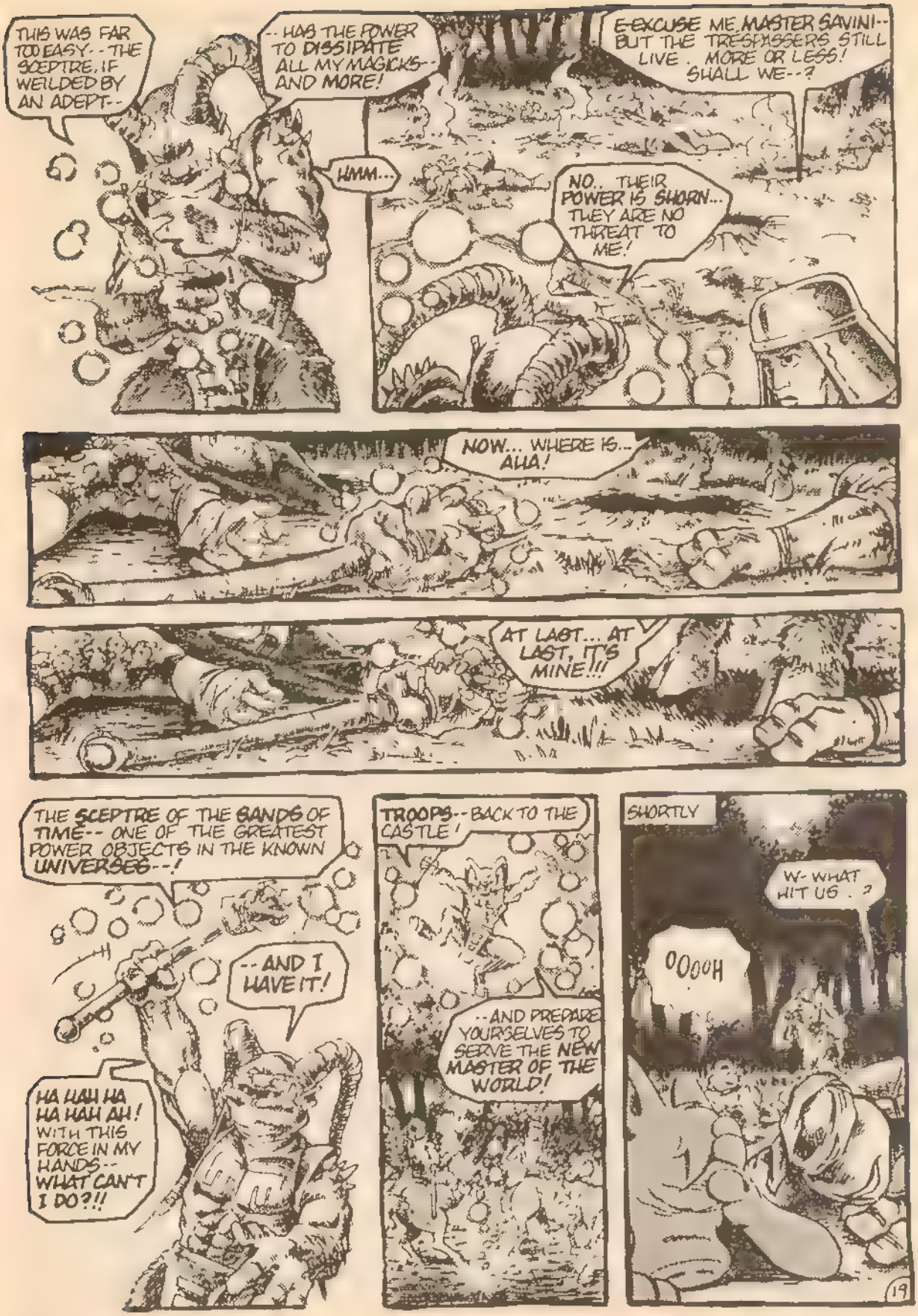
AHH--! MY EYES!
DEMONS! GET BACK!
BROWWOWWOWWOWWW

WITHIN THE CASTLE
IT'S HERE! IT'S HERE!
URRNNK
WHAT HAPPENED?!
WHERE ARE WE?
EEEKKK!!! A DEMON!
OH, GEEZ!
THE SCEPTRE--! IT'S HERE!!
GURR..?
OH, WOW... MORE "SPECIAL CREATURES"! I HOPE WE DIDN'T HURT YOU!
DEMONS AND WITCH!!
UH OH, ONE OF THOSE GUYS WE LANDED ON IS GOING FOR HIS SWORD... COULD BE TROUBLE!
5

ARE YOU CRAZY?! "THE SCEPTRE" -- THE ONE THAT THE SACRED BANDS
IN THIS DIMENSION--
YES! IT IS TRUE
POWER THE FORCE
TAKE IT EASY FRIEND!
LET'S SEE IF YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THAT THING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
RIGHT OVER--
TINK
--THERE!
AT THE EDGE OF THE WOODS!
CAPTAIN!
MOVE IT!

HEY YOU GUYS-- CHILL OUT! NO NEED TO FIGHT I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!
Y'SEE, BACK IN THE 79TH LEVEL OF THE DIMENSION OF NULL-TIME, I WAS, LIKE TOTALLY TIRED OF MY DULL, BORING LIFE AS APPRENTICE TO LORD SIMULTANEOUS, MASTER OF TIME SO I DECIDED TO BLAH BLAH BLAH
RIDE HARD, WARRIORS-- RIDE FAST! HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE THRONE TO THE NORTH AND MAY YOUR GODS HAVE MERCY ON ANY STRAGGLERS-- FOR I WILL NOT!
SO WHEN DR. LORD SIMULTANEOUS APPEARED IN NEW YORK, I WAS JUST SO BORED WITH US ALL REAL SLOW AND HORRIBLE. SO I USED THIS SCEPTRE TO HOP US OFF TO HERE!
ANYWAY, THIS PLACE IS PRETTY GROSS. SO I'LL JUST HAVE THE SCEPTRE TAKE AWAY TO SOME NICE PLACE, REAL SOON! OKAY?

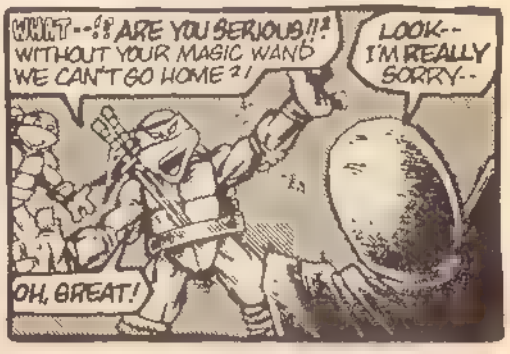

SCATTER!
SURROUND THEM! CUT THEM OFF!
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE CAPTAIN—
I'LL HANDLE THIS
MY SPECIAL WAY!
WUMF
POMP
PLUMP
BOMPH

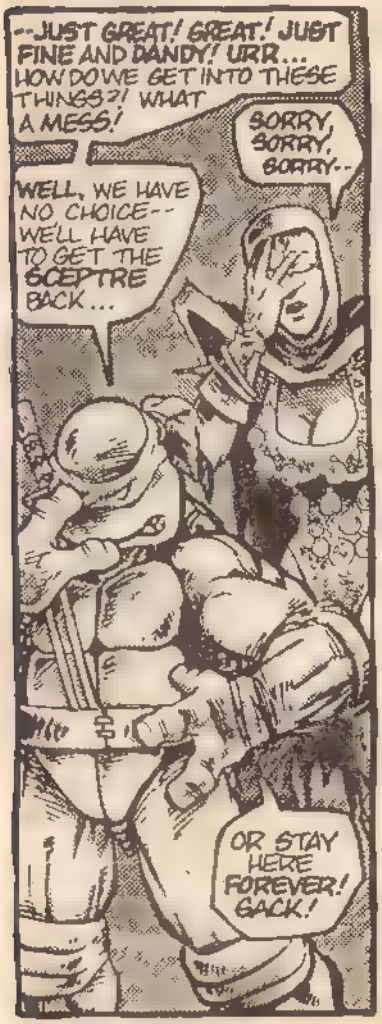

THIS WAS FAR TOO EASY-- THE SCEPTRE, IF WEILDED BY AN ADEPT--
-- HAS THE POWER TO DISSIPATE ALL MY MAGICKS-- AND MORE!
E-EXCUSE ME, MASTER SAVINI-- BUT THE TRESPASSERS STILL LIVE . MORE OR LESS! SHALL WE--?
HMM...
NO.. THEIR POWER IS SHORN... THEY ARE NO THREAT TO ME!
NOW... WHERE IS... AHA!
AT LAST... AT LAST, IT'S MINE!!!
THE SCEPTRE OF THE SANDS OF TIME-- ONE OF THE GREATEST POWER OBJECTS IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSES--!
-- AND I HAVE IT!
HA HAH HA HA HAH AH! WITH THIS FORCE IN MY HANDS-- WHAT CAN'T I DO?!!
TROOPS-- BACK TO THE CASTLE!
-- AND PREPARE YOURSELVES TO SERVE THE NEW MASTER OF THE WORLD!
SHORTLY
W- WHAT HIT US . ?
OOOOH
19

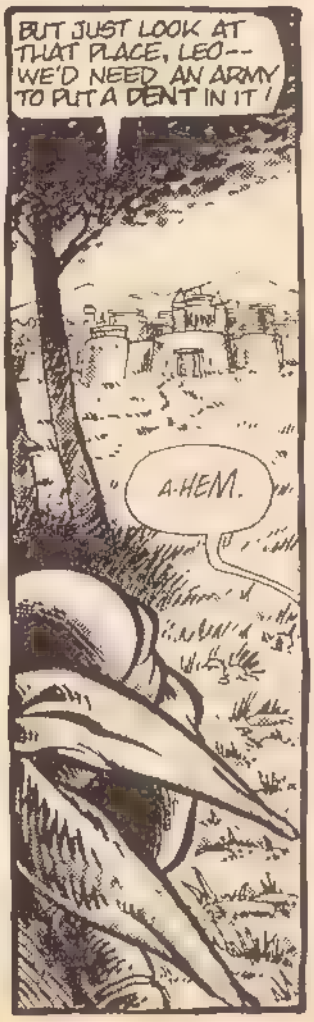
MUTHER--
IS EVERYONE OKAY?
OH, NO!
--THE SCEPTRE!

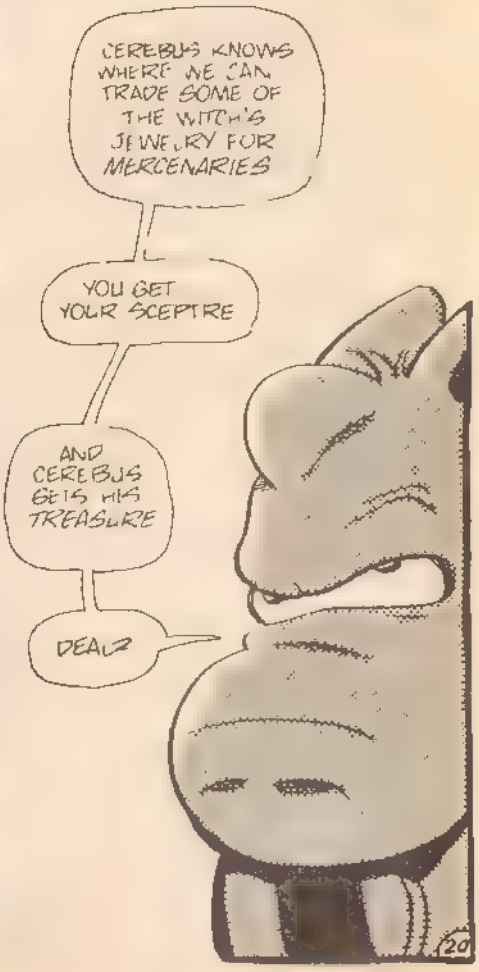
THE SCEPTRE IS GONE!
THAT GROSS HAIRY GUY MUST HAVE TAKEN IT!

A-AND... WITHOUT THE SANDS OF TIME, WE'LL BE STUCK HERE-- LIKE, FOREVER!!!

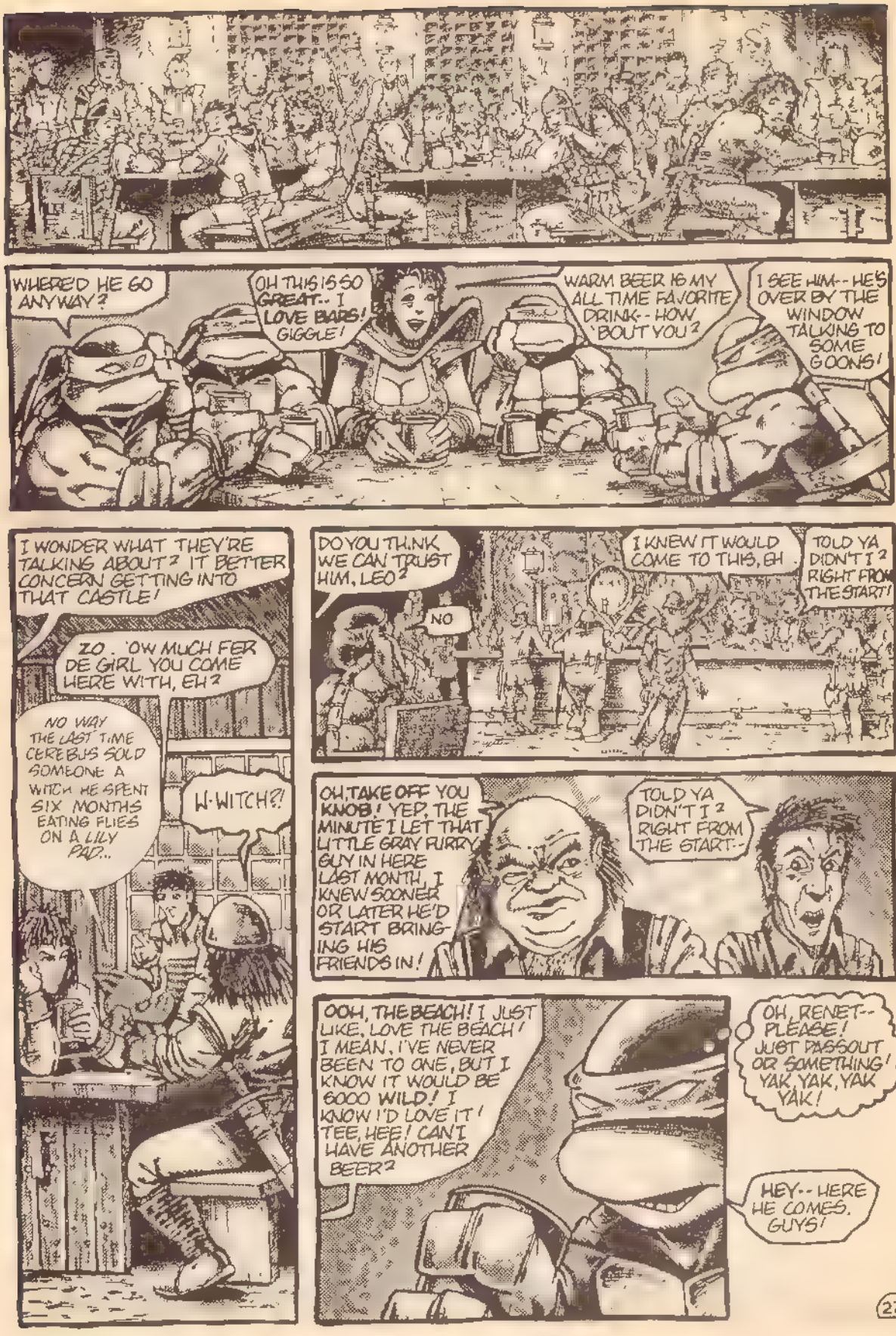

WHAT--?! ARE YOU SERIOUS!!? WITHOUT YOUR MAGIC WAND WE CAN'T GO HOME?!
LOOK-- I'M REALLY SORRY--
OH, GREAT!


--JUST GREAT! GREAT! JUST FINE AND DANDY! URR... HOW DO WE GET INTO THESE THINGS?! WHAT A MESS!
SORRY, SORRY, SORRY--
WELL, WE HAVE NO CHOICE-- WE'LL HAVE TO GET THE SCEPTRE BACK...
OR STAY HERE FOREVER! GACK!


BUT JUST LOOK AT THAT PLACE, LEO-- WE'D NEED AN ARMY TO PUT A DENT IN IT!
A-HEM.

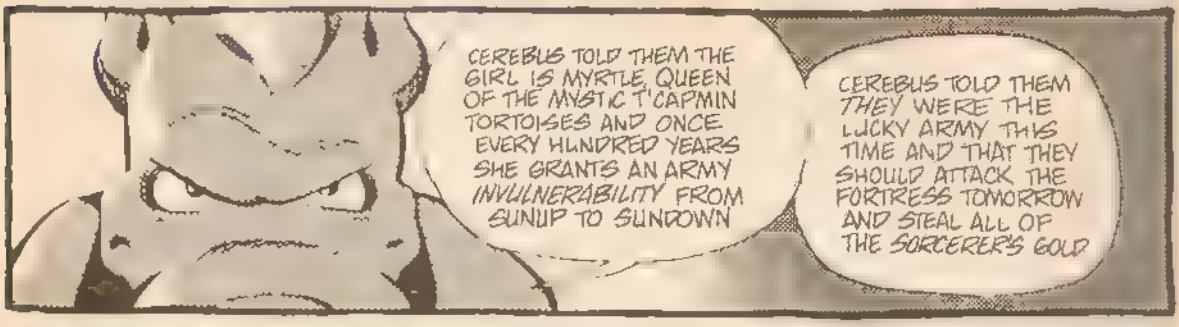

CEREBUS KNOWS WHERE WE CAN TRADE SOME OF THE WITCH'S JEWELRY FOR MERCENARIES
YOU GET YOUR SCEPTRE
AND CEREBUS GETS HIS TREASURE
DEAL?

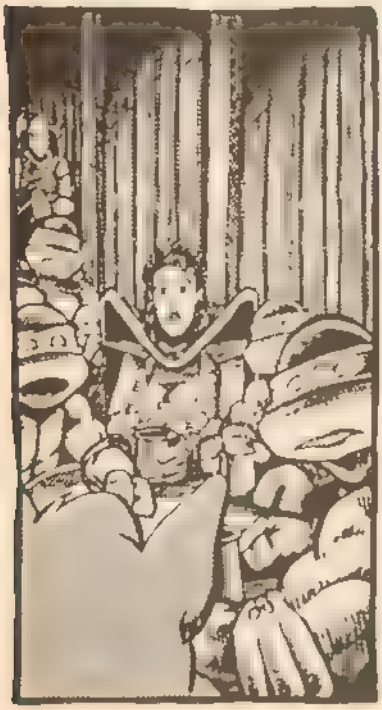
A FEW HOURS LATER.
UH-OH, I THINK YOU GOT IN SOME PUKE DENET


WHERE'D HE GO ANYWAY?
OH THIS IS SO GREAT-- I LOVE BARS! GIGGLE!
WARM BEER IS MY ALL TIME FAVORITE DRINK-- HOW 'BOUT YOU?
I SEE HIM-- HE'S OVER BY THE WINDOW TALKING TO SOME GOONS!
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT? IT BETTER CONCERN GETTING INTO THAT CASTLE!
ZO. 'OW MUCH FER DE GIRL YOU COME HERE WITH, EH?
NO WAY THE LAST TIME CEREBUS SOLD SOMEONE A WITCH HE SPENT SIX MONTHS EATING FLIES ON A LILY PAD..
W-WITCH?!
DO YOU THINK WE CAN TRUST HIM, LEO?
NO
I KNEW IT WOULD COME TO THIS, EH
TOLD YA DIDN'T I? RIGHT FROM THE START!
OH, TAKE OFF YOU KNOB! YEP, THE MINUTE I LET THAT LITTLE GRAY FURRY GUY IN HERE LAST MONTH, I KNEW SOONER OR LATER HE'D START BRINGING HIS FRIENDS IN!
TOLD YA DIDN'T I? RIGHT FROM THE START--
OOH, THE BEACH! I JUST LIKE, LOVE THE BEACH! I MEAN, I'VE NEVER BEEN TO ONE, BUT I KNOW IT WOULD BE GOOD WILD! I KNOW I'D LOVE IT! TEE, HEE! CAN I HAVE ANOTHER BEER?
OH, RENET-- PLEASE! JUST PASSOUT OR SOMETHING! YAK, YAK, YAK YAK!
HEY-- HERE HE COMES, GUYS!

HEY ... HAVE YOU SEEN MY HAT?
WHAT'S UP CEREBUS? WHY'D THOSE MEN YOU WERE TALKING TO GO RUNNING OUT THE DOOR?

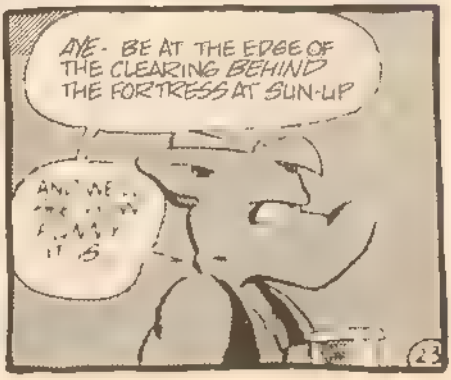
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO THEM? WILL THEY HELP US ATTACK THE FORT? WHAT ABOUT--
STOP SWEATING IN YOUR ALE-- IT MAKES IT TASTE FUNNY
CEREBUS HAS NO ARMY WE NEED
OH, YEAH? HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
EASY


CEREBUS TOLD THEM THE GIRL IS MYRTLE, QUEEN OF THE MYSTIC T'CAPMIN TORTOISES AND ONCE EVERY HUNDRED YEARS SHE GRANTS AN ARMY INVULNERABILITY FROM SUNUP TO SUNDOWN
CEREBUS TOLD THEM THEY WERE THE LUCKY ARMY THIS TIME AND THAT THEY SHOULD ATTACK THE FORTRESS TOMORROW AND STEAL ALL OF THE SORCERER'S GOLD

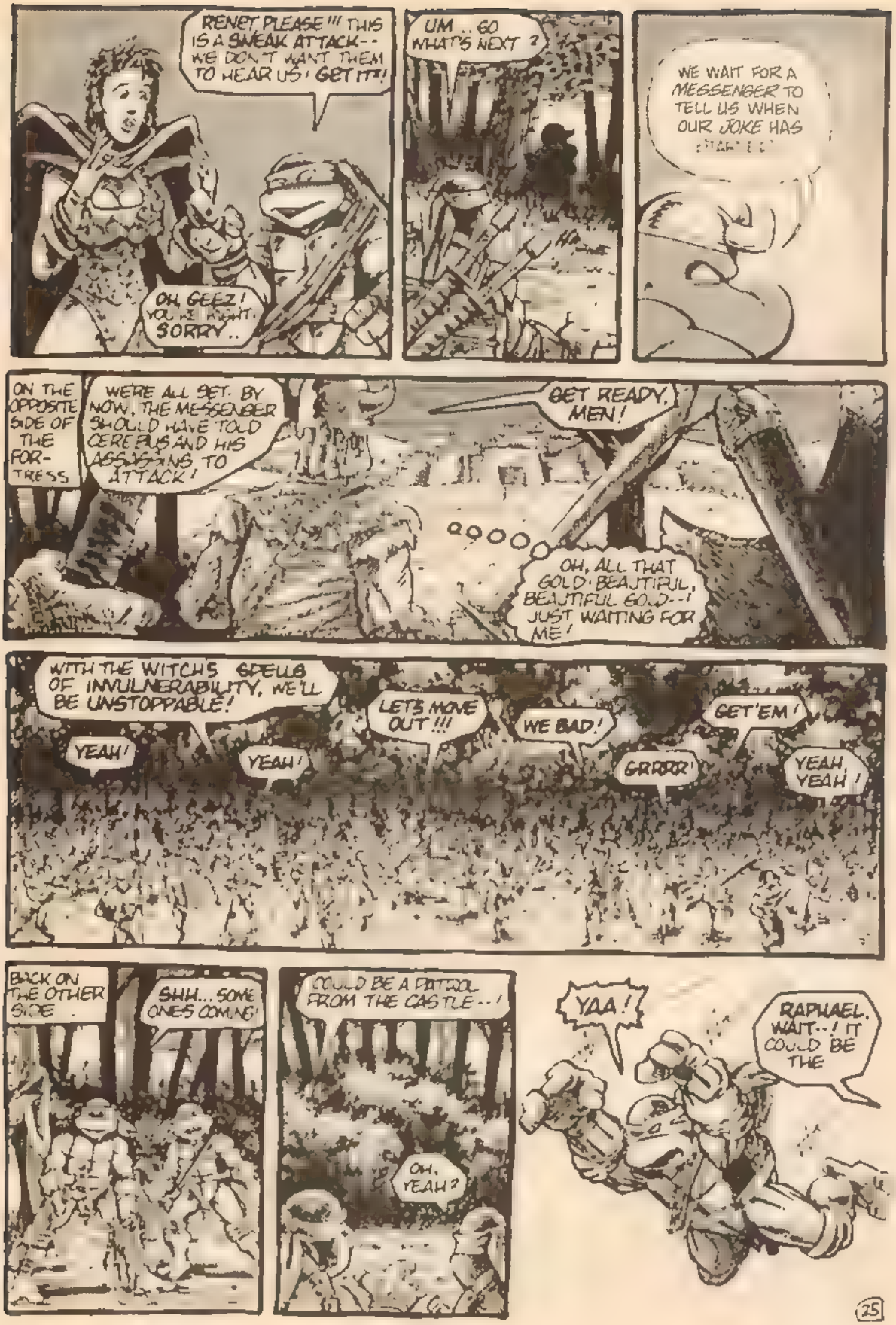


HAHAHAHAHA HAHAHAHAHA HAHAHAHAHA

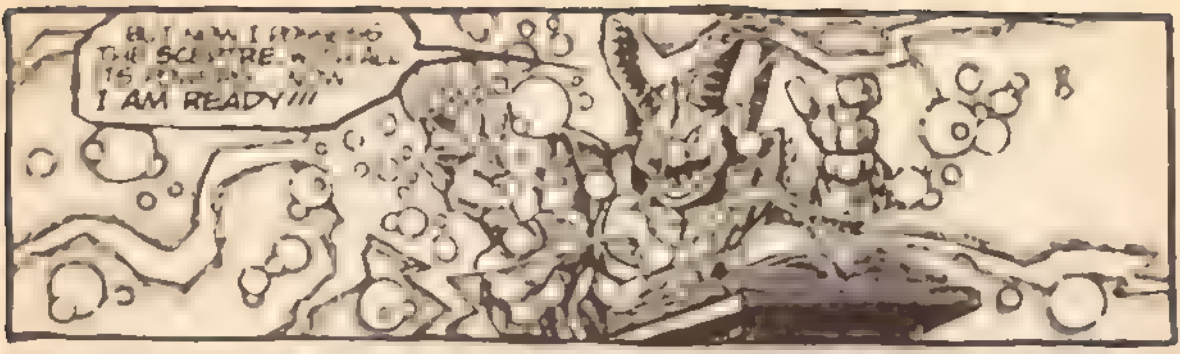
JOKE RIGHT?


AYE- BE AT THE EDGE OF THE CLEARING BEHIND THE FORTRESS AT SUN-UP
AND WE'LL BE THERE EVEN IF IT IS

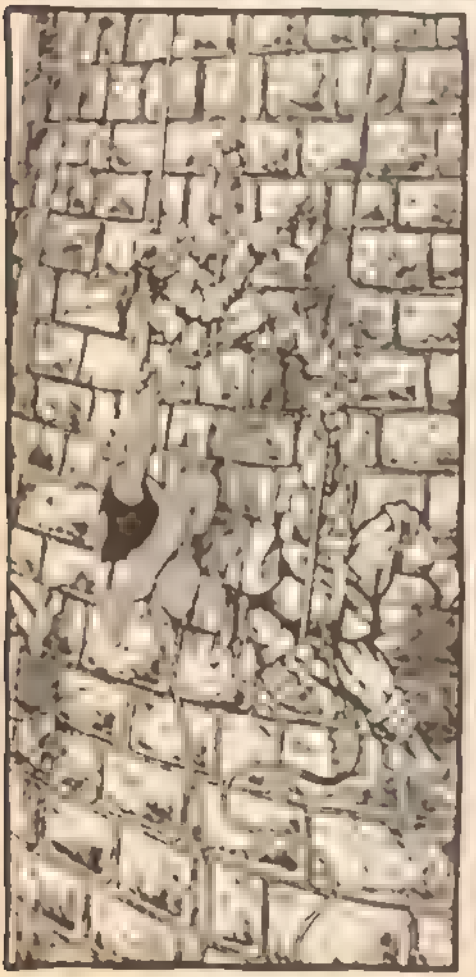
MAYBE CEREBUS DOESN'T HAVE TO STEAL THE STUPID SCROLLS.. CEREBUS IS MILES FROM THAT DAMN WIZARD
HIS POWER COULDN'T POSSIBLY WORK AT THIS DISTANCE..... COULDN'T POSSIBLY
CEREBUS WILL JUST UP AND LEAVE
AYE
THAT'S IT CEREBUS WILL JUST UP AND...
HEY, MISTER CEREBUS— LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD, HUH?
SHHH!
OH, GEEZ
RENET, BE QUIET!
MAYBE WE COULD LEAVE HER HERE?
OKAY OKAY
WHAT'D I DO?
DAMN WIZARDS


RENET, PLEASE!!! THIS IS A SNEAK ATTACK-- WE DON'T WANT THEM TO HEAR US! GET IT?!
OH, GEEZ! YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY..
UM.. SO WHAT'S NEXT?
WE WAIT FOR A MESSENGER TO TELL US WHEN OUR JOKE HAS
ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE FOR-TRESS
WE'RE ALL SET. BY NOW, THE MESSENGER SHOULD HAVE TOLD CEREBUS AND HIS ASSASSINS TO ATTACK!
GET READY, MEN!
OH, ALL THAT GOLD. BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL GOLD--! JUST WAITING FOR ME!
WITH THE WITCH'S SPELLS OF INVULNERABILITY, WE'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE!
YEAH!
YEAH!
LET'S MOVE OUT!!!
WE BAD!
GRRRR!
GET 'EM!
YEAH, YEAH!
BACK ON THE OTHER SIDE.
SHH... SOME ONES COMING!
COULD BE A PATROL FROM THE CASTLE--!
OH, YEAH?
YAA!
RAPHAEL, WAIT--! IT COULD BE THE

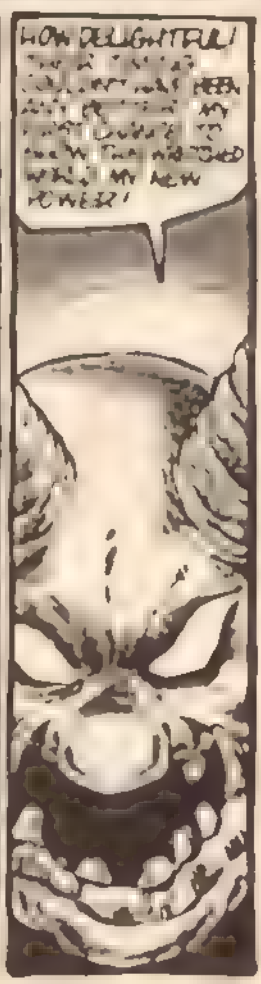
...THE MESSENGER.
UH... HEY... IT WAS THE MESSENGER! HEH... GUESS THAT MEANS WE'RE READY TO GO, HUH?
IT'S A GOOD THING CEREBUS DOESN'T BELIEVE IN OMENS
HE'S USUALLY NOT THIS BAD -- IT MUST BE THE CLEAN AIR HERE!
AH, YESSS... IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME NOW... I REMEMBER THIS WELL ITS BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE OPENED THIS TEXT! OF COURSE, UNTIL NOW I'VE HAD NO NEED TO REVIEW "101 USES FOR THE SACRED SANDS OF TIME SCEPTRE"! HEH, HEH, HEH...!


I AM READY!!!

KILL'IM!
YEAH!
GET HIS GOLD!
GAHHH!
GOLD!
NO ONE TELL ME ABOUT THE GOLD!

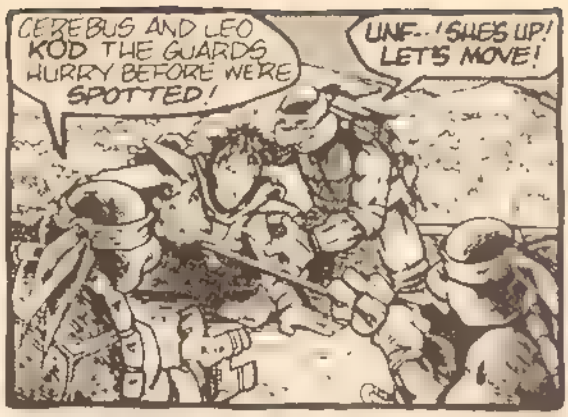


ARE ASSAULTED
ATTACKING THE FRONT GATE!
NO, KING!


HOW DELIGHTFUL!
WHAT MY NEW POWER!

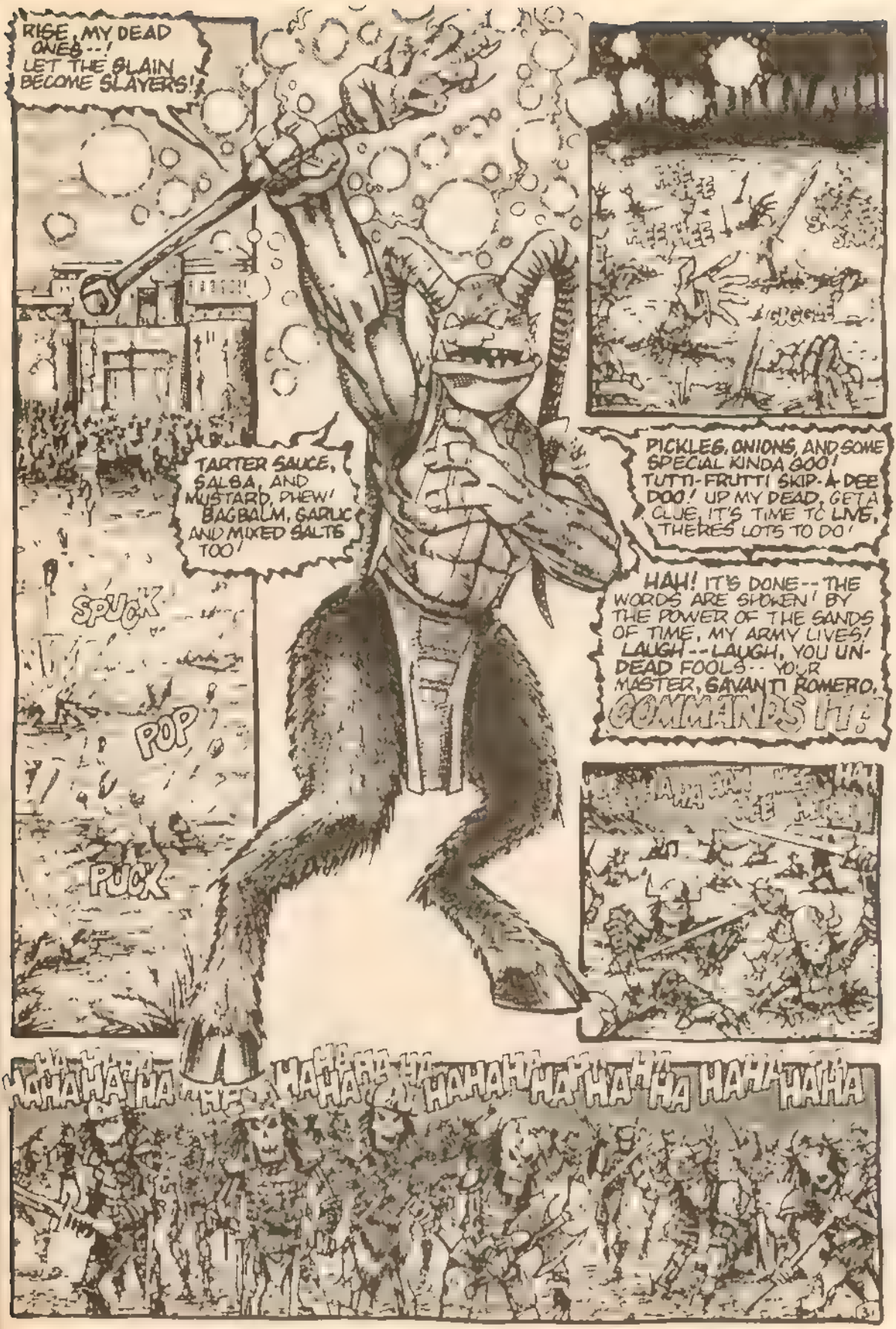
BARE
NO DEFINITELY NOT!
BARE?
KICK THE BUM OUT
BITE IM
--AS ALL WARRIORS SHALL R-
O FIGHT AGAIN!
EEEK

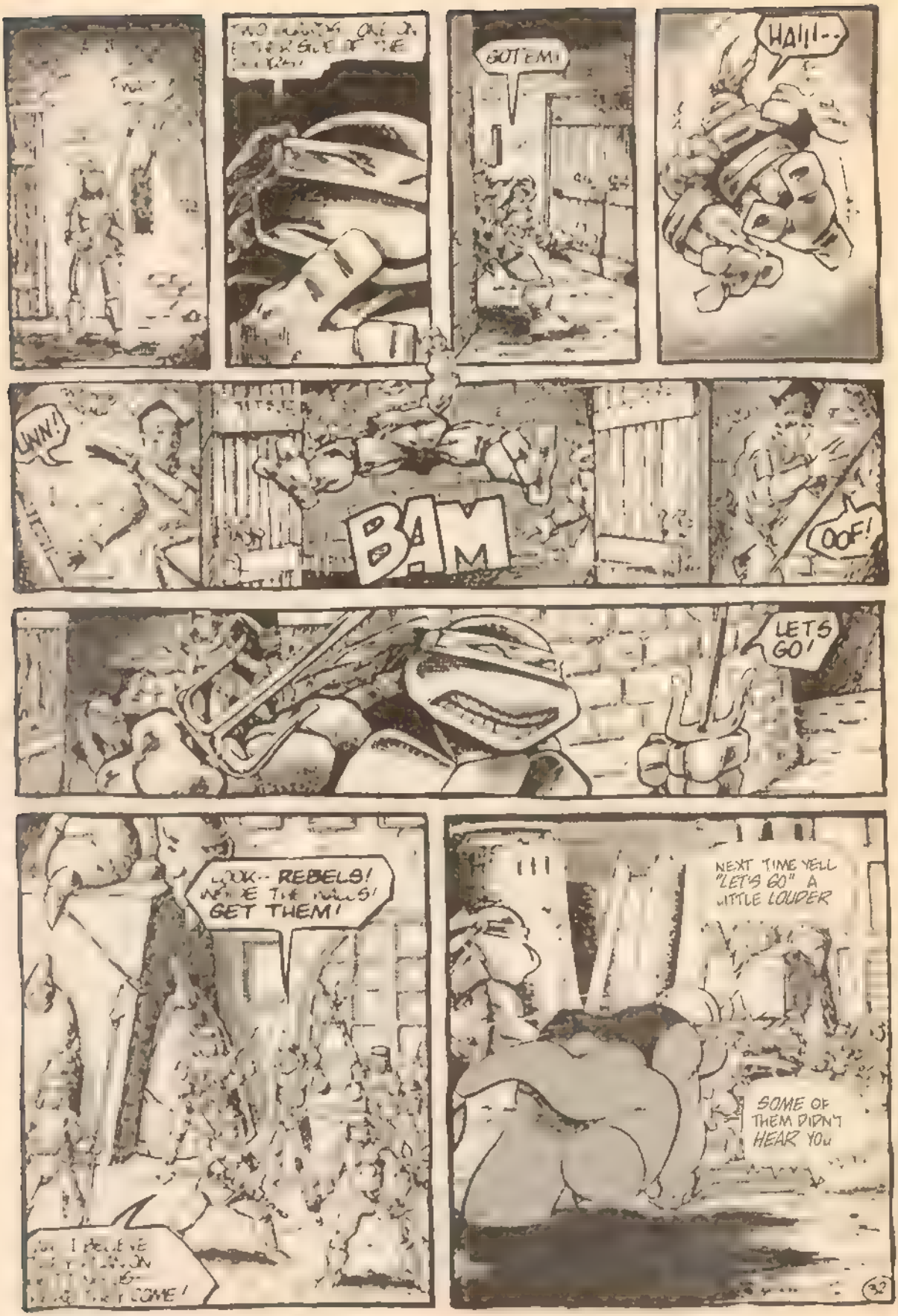
HURRY, GUYS, PLEASE?! I HATE HEIGHTS! OOH, I'M GONNA DIE, I JUST KNOW IT!


CEREBUS AND LEO KOD THE GUARDS HURRY BEFORE WE'RE SPOTTED!
UNF..! SHES UP! LET'S MOVE!

SHAPED QUARTERS

CEREBUS AN TAKE
THE
WEAPONS WHILE
ON A CHECK
WITH


RISE, MY DEAD ONES--! LET THE SLAIN BECOME SLAYERS!
TARTER SAUCE, SALSA, AND MUSTARD, PHEW! BAGBALM, GARLIC AND MIXED SALTS TOO!
PICKLES, ONIONS, AND SOME SPECIAL KINDA GOO! TUTTI-FRUTTI SKIP-A-DEE DOO! UP MY DEAD, GET A CLUE, IT'S TIME TO LIVE, THERE'S LOTS TO DO!
HAH! IT'S DONE--THE WORDS ARE SPOKEN! BY THE POWER OF THE SANDS OF TIME, MY ARMY LIVES! LAUGH--LAUGH, YOU UNDEAD FOOLS--YOUR MASTER, SAVANTI ROMERO, COMMANDS IT!
SPUCK
POP
PUCK
HAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHAHA

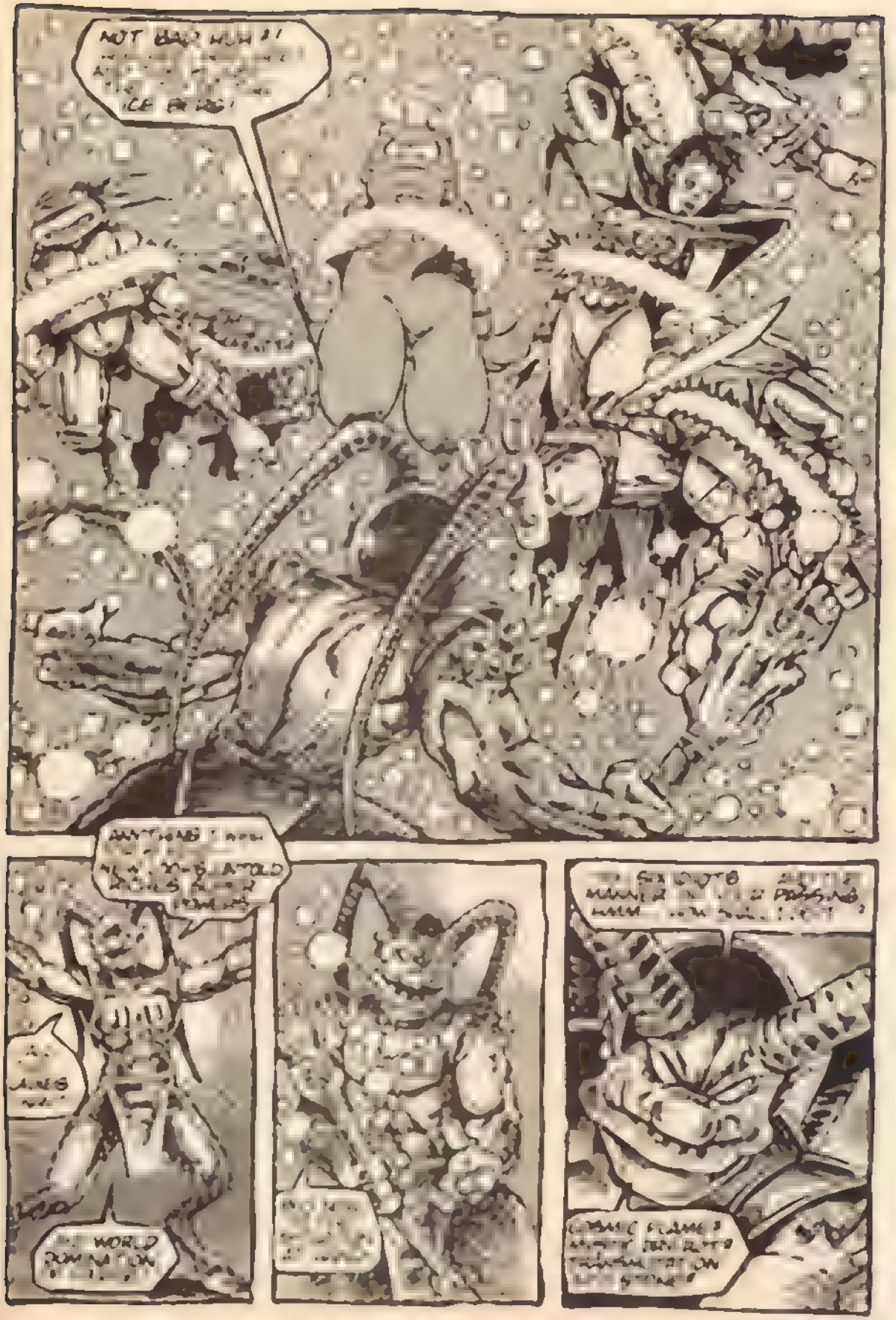

GOT EM!
HA!!--
UNN!
BAM
OOF!
LETS GO!
LOOK-- REBELS! GET THEM!
NEXT TIME YELL "LET'S GO" A LITTLE LOUDER
SOME OF THEM DIDN'T HEAR YOU
32

ACK!
GET THE DUKES EVERYONE INSIDE QUICKLY!

YAAAH!
LIVE MY DEAD WARRIORS! KILL THE REBELS!
AUGH
OW
EEK!
HELP!
HEY LISTEN- LAUGHING? IT'S
HEY! YOU GUYS HEAR THAT?

USELESS! SLAUGHTERED!
RUN AWAY!
RUN AWAY!
THIS IS GREAT! HA HA HA HA HA HA!
INTRUDERS! STOP THEM!
KA-BAM
THREE!

HUH?
WELL-- WHAT HAVE WE GOT HERE?!
OOOH-- IT'S YOU, FOOLS!
HE'S GOT MY SCEPTRE!
GRAB HIM GUYS!
YOUR SCEPTRE--? YOUR SCEPTRE!!?! AHAHAHAHA! YOU PATHETIC, STUPID TWIT! YOU MAY HAVE BROUGHT THE SCEPTRE HERE--
--BUT NOW IT BELONGS TO SOMEONE WISE ENOUGH TO UTILIZE ITS FULL POTENTIAL! HERE-- HAVE A SAMPLE!


NOT BAD HUH ?!
ANYTHING ?
WORLD DOMINATION

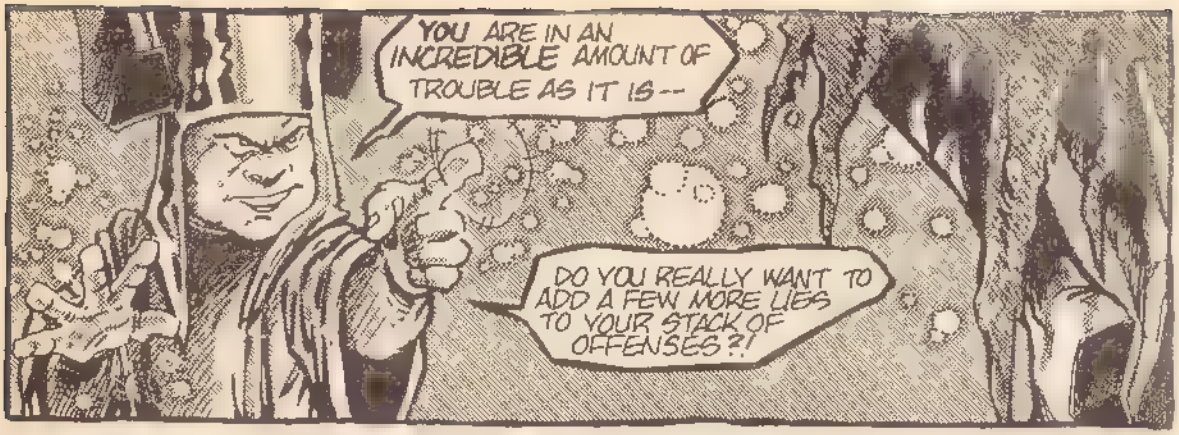
STOP!
GACK!
YOU!
YOU?!
WELL, DON'T THIS BEAT ALL! OL' SAVANTI ROMERO-- I'D FORGOTTEN THAT I'D SENT YOU HERE! STILL UP TO NO GOOD, I SEE!
YOU FORGOT... YOU FORGOT!!? YOU BASTARD! YOU RUINED MY CAREER AS AN ASSISTANT GOD, MUTATED ME INTO THIS OBSCENE FORM, CAST ME INTO THIS GOD FORSAKEN LAND FOR ALL ETERNITY. AND YOU FORGOT!?!
ROMERO, YOU PLAY THE INNOCENT AS BADLY NOW AS YOU DID WHEN I CAUGHT YOU PLOTTING TO OVER-THROW ME, EONS AGO--
-- SEEK NOT TO BLAME ME FOR YOUR WRETCHED STATE!
HUMPF!
I WAS WEAK, THEN-- BUT THAT'S ALL CHANGED NOW--!

--YOUR SCEPTRE WITH THE SACRED SANDS OF TIME--
IT'S MINE NOW!
HOW ABOUT THAT! ONE OF THE GREATEST POWER OBJECTS IN EXISTENCE-- AND I CONTROL IT!
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY TO THAT, YOU OLD FOOL?!
HA HA HEE HEE HO HA
HO, HO--OH BOY, THAT'S A GOOD ONE!
DUM-DEE DUM-DEE DUM-DEE DUM--
HERE WE GO!!
I'D FORGOTTEN WHAT A COMEDIAN YOU WERE, ROMERO! HEE, HEE, HEE! WHAT A CARD, WHAT A CUT UP--!
GARRR!!
DON'T LAUGH AT ME--I HATE THAT! YOU ALWAYS LAUGHED AT ME! WELL, AFTER TODAY, NO MORE!
TODAY, I GET EVEN!!

FRY! FRY!
OXIDIZE AND DIE! HA, HA, HA!
BURN, SCORCH, SEAR, AND CHAR!
COOK, SIZZLE -- DO SOMETHING HOT!
COME ON...! A SPARK?! ANYTHING?
PLEASE ?
DONE YET?
PUFF! WHEEZE! GASP!
UH OH I THINK I BE IN TROUBLE
40

WHA--WHAT PUFF HAPPENED? YOU DIDN'T EVEN TWITCH?
FIZZLE
SPRAK
SPUTTER
SPRAK
ALL THE SCEPTRE'S WHEEZE POWER... DIDN'T TOUCH YOU... WHY--?
ZEEEE!
OH, SAVANTI-- YOU REALLY ARE AN AMUSING FELLOW!
I DIDN'T REALIZE WHEN I IMPROVED YOUR LOOKS AND SENT YOU TO THIS ERA, IT WOULD AFFECT YOUR MIND SO MUCH!
YOU SEE, WHAT IT BASICALLY COMES DOWN TO IS THIS YOU'RE WAY BEHIND THE TIMES.
THIS IS THE NEW GENERATION OF POWER OBJECTS--
...THE TECHNOLOGY WE HAVE TODAY PUTS THOSE CRUMMY OLD MYSTIC TALISMANS TO SHAME! THIS, MY FRIEND, IS THE MOST POWERFUL OBJECT IN THE TRANS-TEMPORAL UNIVERSE--
THE DIGITAL COSMIC QUARTZ!!
AND NOW SAVANTI...!
...NOW YOU SHALL FEEL ITS MIGHT!!!

GOOD BYE, SAVANT!!
SWAP!
BLIP!
HI GUYS!
RENET!
HOW'S IT GOING?
NOT SO GREAT I SEE!
G-GEEZ, LORD SIMULTANEOUS, I DIDN'T REALLY, LIKE, STEAL IT! Y'SEE, THIS BIG, UGLY DEMON TOLD ME TO--
STOP RIGHT THERE!

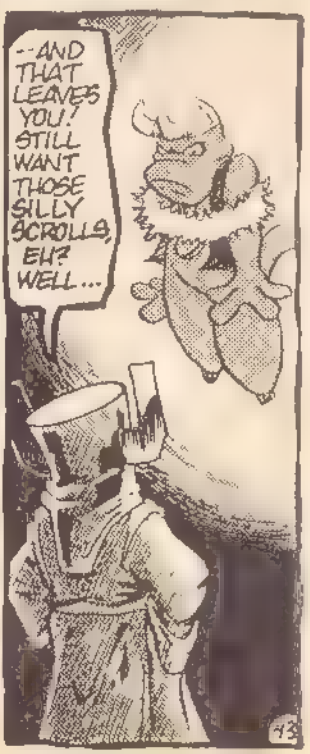

YOU ARE IN AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF TROUBLE AS IT IS--
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO ADD A FEW MORE LIES TO YOUR STACK OF OFFENSES?!

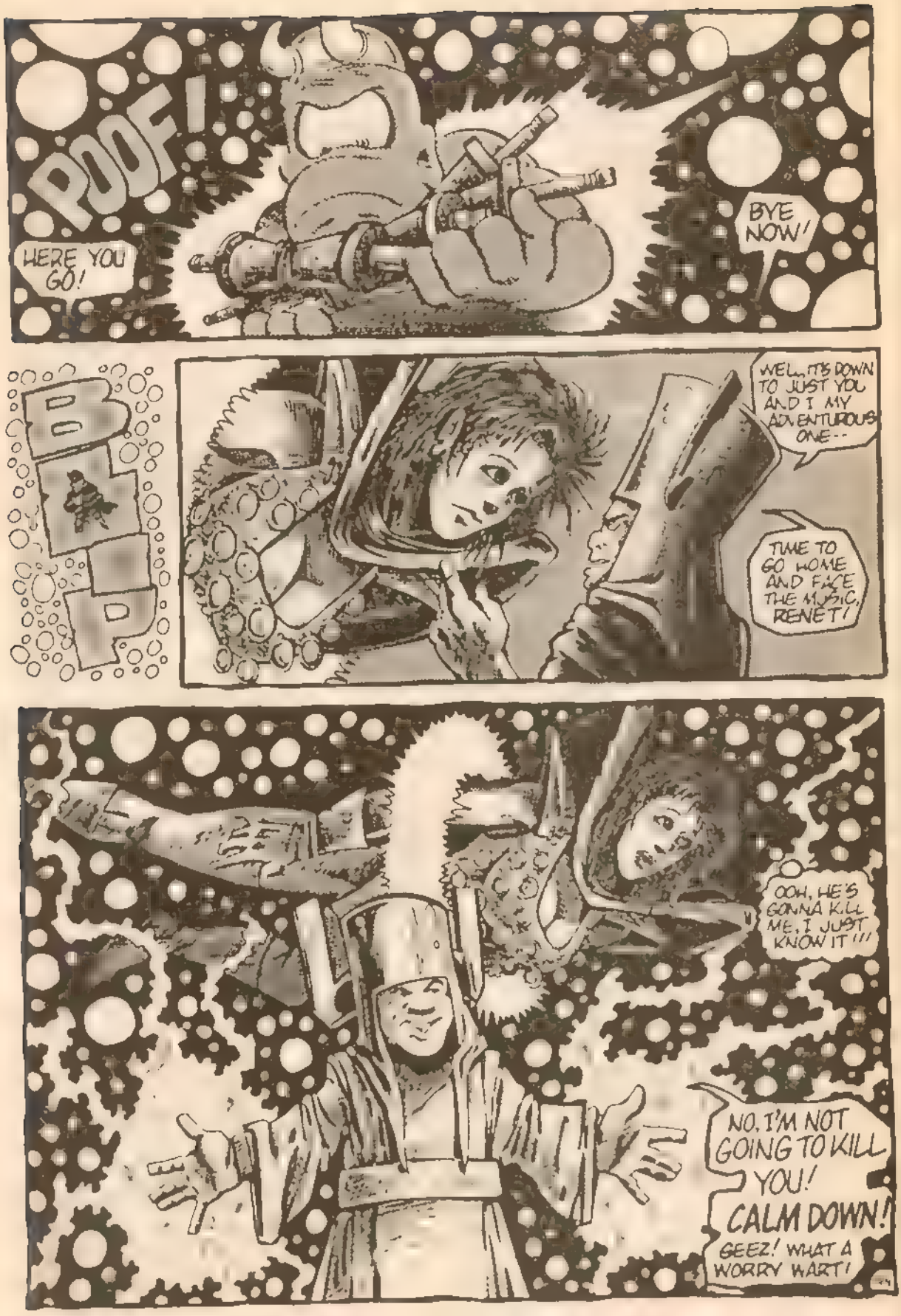
LEAVE HER ALONE, BUTTHEAD! CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S SCARED TO DEATH OF YOU?! NO WONDER SHE LEFT YOUR SERVICE! AND IF YOU LAY ONE FINGER ON HER, I'LL--

WELL, LA DEE DAH! DON'T WORRY, CHUM-- THIS "BUTTHEAD" WON'T HARM RENET IN THE WAY YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT-- BUT SHE WILL BE PUNISHED!

ANYWAY, YOU LOT ARE THE LAST BUNCH OF LOONIES I NEED TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO--! I THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE--

--ADIOS AMIGOS!


--AND THAT LEAVES YOU! STILL WANT THOSE SILLY SCROLLS, EH? WELL...

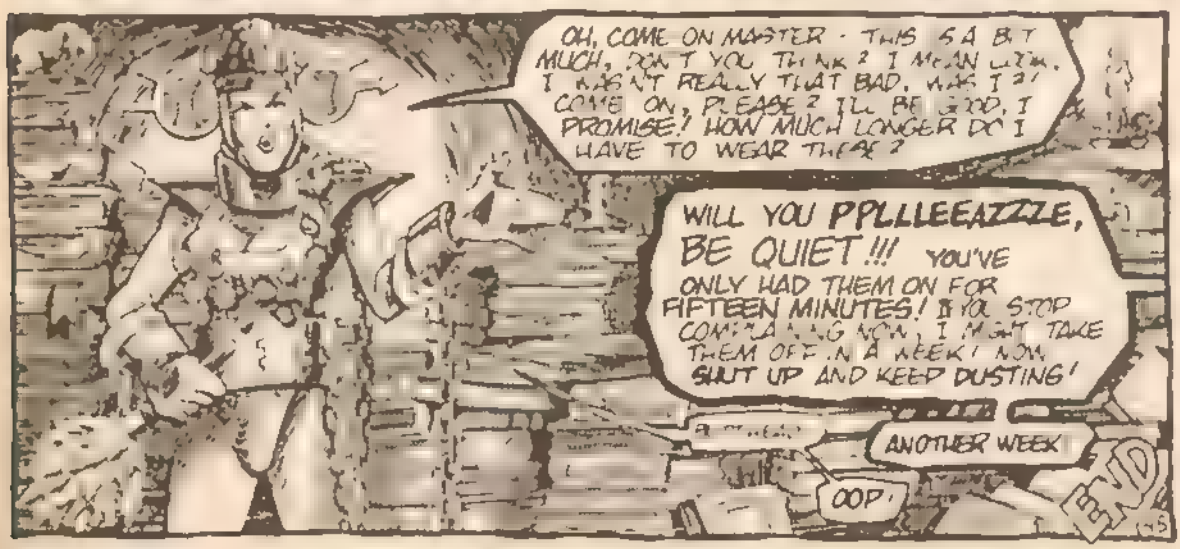

POOF!
HERE YOU GO!
BYE NOW!
BLIP
WELL, IT'S DOWN TO JUST YOU AND I MY ADVENTUROUS ONE--
TIME TO GO HOME AND FACE THE MUSIC, RENET!
OOH, HE'S GONNA KILL ME. I JUST KNOW IT!!!
NO. I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU!
CALM DOWN!
GEEZ! WHAT A WORRY WART!

EPILOGUE

AH, THIS REALLY BITES THE BIG ONE! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TIME ZONE I'M IN!
WHAT COULD BE WORSE THAN THIS?!

CEREBUS IS COMING WITH THE SCROLLS DAMMIT...
CUT CEREBUS SOME SLACK!

YOAH! IT'S ALL DARK! WHERE ARE WE?!
HOME RAPH - NEW YORK.
WE'RE IN A DUMPSTER
MUMPPH-- THOSE TWINKIES GOT TO STOP! THE LANDINGS ARE KILLERS!
:GAFF: MIKE GET OFF MY HEAD!


OH, COME ON MASTER - THIS IS A BIT MUCH, DON'T YOU THINK? I MEAN LOOK, I WASN'T REALLY THAT BAD, WAS I?! COME ON, PLEASE? I'LL BE GOOD, I PROMISE! HOW MUCH LONGER DO I HAVE TO WEAR THESE?
WILL YOU PPLLLEEAZZLE, BE QUIET!!! YOU'VE ONLY HAD THEM ON FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES! IF YOU STOP COMPLAINING NOW, I MIGHT TAKE THEM OFF IN A WEEK! NOW SHUT UP AND KEEP DUSTING!
ANOTHER WEEK
OOP!
END

MIRAGE NEWS

Welcome to the second official "Mirage News" page, wherein we announce upcoming projects from Mirage Studios, appearances by the artists and writers of our books, and so on. We have quite a few things to announce, but let's begin with this: We've moved! Yes, we bade a tearful farewell to the sylvan glades of Sharon, CT, and bugged up to the lively mini-metropolis of Northampton, MA. Our current mailing address is as follows:

Mirage Studios
P.O. Box 417
Haydenville, MA 01039

Before we get to the news, we (Kevin and Peter) would like to give a resounding "Thank you!" to Michael Dooney, artist/writer of Gizmo, for all the help he gave us on the inking and toning of this issue (TMNT #8). Get out Mike's expert aid, we would never have gotten it finished on time!

Now, onward and upward:

Prime Slime Tales #2: writer/penciler Tony Basilicato and inker Jim Lawson are back with the further nutty misadventures of Zigbone, Booger Bloogo, Gorgonzola, and company! Shipping August 10, 1986.

Gizmo #3: What's become of Soto? Can Gizmo Spacket and the ever-obedient Fluffy Brockleton save the day? Find out when Michael Dooney brings you the third exciting issue of the best robot book around! Shipping August 10, 1986.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #9: A tales of the turtles before they were teenagers' Story by Eastman and Laird, art by Michael Dooney! Shipping September 30, 1986.

Bade Biker #1: Jim Lawson returns with a "prequel" to the Bade Biker story which appeared in TMNT #7. In this 30-page story, you'll discover the origin of Orson the frog, and see how he met up with the drifter, Bade Biker... and how they together confronted the evil Moto-Man! Art and story by Jim Lawson. Shipping September 15, 1986.

Gobbledygook #1: Our biggest book yet! This 104-page book will feature an all-new 10 page TMNT story, plus early non-TMNT stories and illustrations by Eastman and Laird. Definitely a different kind of book! Shipping November 1, 1986.

Leonardo #1: The fourth one-issue "Micro-Series" featuring Leonardo, TMNT. Full-color wraparound cover, Eastman and Laird art and story. Shipping December 15, 1986.

Turtle Soup #1: Yow! All-new TMNT stories by artists and writers other than Eastman and Laird, in an anthology-style book! What wild turtle-tales will they come up with? What bizarre permutations of turtledom will they perpetrate? Only time will tell! A thirty-two page, black and white book, to be published (hopefully) bimonthly. First issue shipping in mid-1987. (Special note: Interested writers and/or artists write to us for Turtle Soup guidelines!)

Grunts #1: In every war, there are the foot-soldiers, those valiant trench-sloggers -- the 'grunts'. Now, Mirage Studios presents an anthology-style comic with stories by various artists and writers, featuring the exploits of these unsung heroes, with a twist - all of the characters are anthropomorphics ('funny animals', for the uninitiated)! Thirty-two pages, black and white, hopefully bimonthly. First issue shipping in mid-1987.

That's about it for Mirage Studios' publications for a while. But keep your eyes peeled for the second TMNT role-playing game from Palladium Books, and the "How to Draw the TMNTs" and "TMNT Martial Arts Training Manual" books from Nelson Publications. And then there's the big news...

TMNT IN FULL-COLOR!!! That's right -- the first three issues of TMNT will be reprinted together, in the graphic novel format, in full painted color! This graphic novel, which will also contain eight pages of new material, will be published and distributed by First Comics! Watch for it!

And before I forget -- look for a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles/ Flaming Carrot team-up/crossover sometime soon! We've been talking to Flaming Carrot creator/artist/writer Bob Burden (who, incidentally, is one of the nicest guys we've yet met in this business), and it looks like it'll be a story that starts with five pages in an issue of TMNT, and concludes in an issue of Flaming Carrot. Don't miss it! In the meantime, read Flaming Carrot -- it's a lot of nutty fun!

And now for a much-neglected feature of late -- our letters page!

L E T T E R S

Well, I've been involved with comic books for close to 20 years now (OK, so I'm just a puppy), and I've seen them come and go -- Barbaric Fantasy, Neuman, Jed and Ebo; all classics from the past. Short-lived, ill-fated... but classic. The newest star on the horizon: TMNT! I'd be caught without my shorts before I'd miss an issue, word, jot, or tittle (turtle?!!) of the TMNT. Consequently, the accolades. Keep up the fine art and good storylines!

Mark Dargie
Stamford, VT

("The Darge" is one of my best old buddies from high school, and he is being extremely kind when he refers to the above titles as 'classics'. Hey, Mark-- can you feel green? (Inside joke, folks!) -- Peter)

For the wonderful people who do TMNT: Imagine how ridiculous it would look if a ninja were to yell the word "yell" when he was attacking someone. Well, imagine no further. Just turn to page nine of TMNT #6, where Mike is attacking one of the guards. When he yells "Kiai!" he is actually yelling the Japanese word for "yell".

Consider yourselves yelled at.

Lena Sorensen
Bellevue, WA

I did it again. I have this bad habit of taking a while to catch on. Really. And amid all the hubbub and hoopla, it took me 'til now to finally read a turtles comic, the latest one. Guess what -- I loved it! Lots of detail in the artwork, nice use of duo-shade paper, classic good storytelling, imaginative Triceratops monster... I won't go on. You're doing good work, and as usually happens in comics fandom, your success is deserved. Looking forward to more!

Al Greenier
Bristol, CT

(Al sent us copies of some really neat mini-comics that he's done, featuring the riotous adventures of "Spa-Man". Back issues (two, as far as I know) are available for 72¢ postpaid from: Blatant Image, 65 Ingraham Street, Bristol, CT 06010.)
per issue from: Blatant Image, 65 Ingraham Street, Bristol, CT 06010.)

Whoa! Check it out! TMNT's are standard comic size! I bet you think that's pretty cool, huh? And these full-color covers! I bet you think you're pretty hot! But wait! You're also publishing two new titles, Gizmo and Prime Slime Tales! I bet you think that's an accomplishment or something! If that's not enough, you had to make more turtle products -- a role-playing game? more miniatures? You know what you can do with all this? Do you?!??

Keep it coming! I love it! I think I've figured out who's who: Raphael's the crazy brawler, Michaelangelo's the warm, sensitive type, Leonardo seems to be the leader (aside from Splinter), and Donatello's the one with the mechanically-inclined mind! Am I right? (Spot-on, pal!--Peter) 'Til Fugitoid transforms into a truck, MAKE MINE MIRAGE!

Rob Sturma
Lindenhurst, IL

First off, I'd like to say that TMNT is the best comic book I have ever read. It did something for me that no other outside influence could -- it got me to like comic books in general. I always hated comic books and thought they were immature because I had the impression that they consisted of funny-looking humans with special stupid powers who ran around in their "underpos". Now, because TMNT opened up my eyes, I see there's more to comics than X-Men or Batman.

Scott Randle
Dallas, TX

Here's a nifty computer-drawn sketch of Donatello by Donald Petty of Hillsville, VA. Thanks, Don!

Turtles #6 -- still my favorite title but loosing ground fast. C'mon guys, #5 and #6 are terrible (it started with #4)-- what's going on? Victims of ton much praise? Getting sloppy... yes, I think so.

The classics #1, 2, and 3 rank a 10, Raphael 9+, and Michaelangelo 9+. Looking at all your issues it seems to me that #5 and #6 are terribly over-cluttered. Waiting 3-4 months between issues is a long time to wait... we the consumers expect to see the best from you guys. Look for yourself: compare 1 and 2 to 5 and 6 and see what I mean. Or are you blinded by success?

Already with Michaelangelo the art is slipping but the story makes up for it. Let's see the turtles big and bold again, not cramped into small panels.

The turtles are best in the city fighting thugs, killers, muggers in the alleys, rooftops, streets and sewers. This space stuff sucks -- Star Wars is dead! After the Cerebus issue, please get back to the basics, strong story and plot, and please start and finish the story in one issue. TMNT seems to work better that way. I'll be glad to see this space opera end. Also it is very violent -- "taking off heads"? Kids read this, you know. "Kick ass"? "Damn" all the time. You guys are an influence. Please consider that.

Despite all of that, I'.l wait and see what #9 brings before I drop/continue collecting. Color would help the turtles.

Larry Mindy
Chicago, IL

(What can we say except "Chacun à son gout"?)

ORIGINAL ART WANTED!

Anyone got any they'd like to sell and/or trade? We're looking for: Russ Heath (especially Sgt. Rock), John Severin (especially Losers), Russ Manning, Steve Rude, Richard Corben (his comic book work), Michael Golden, Jack Kirby (especially his DC work, and particularly stuff from Kamandi and the Demon). In addition to full comic book pages, we're also looking for sketches by these artists. Also, art by Louis Darling from the book The Enormous Egg, and by other artists from illustrated books about dinosaurs (specifically of Triceratops).

If you have any art that fits the above description, and you're interested in selling and/or trading it, write to us at the Mirage Studios address, describing what you've got and how much you are asking. Also, if at all possible, send a xerox copy or copies of the art, along with your phone # and address. If you've got something we want, we'll get back to you!

OH NO, WHAT HAPPENED?!

AN OFFICIAL MIRAGE STUDIOS APOLOGY TO ALL YOU RION 2990 FANS--

DUE TO THE SUDDEN ARTWORK DEADLINE DATE CHANGE FOR TMNT #8, THE FIVE PAGE **RION 2990** BACK-UP FEATURE WILL NOT RUN IN THIS ISSUE. SORRY FOLKS!

INSTEAD LOOK FOR RYAN BROWN'S HOT NEW **RION 2990** STORY IN TMNT #9, SHIPPING SEPTEMBER 30TH.

MEANWHILE LOOK FOR THE FIRST ISSUE OF **RION 2990** AT YOUR LOCAL COMIC SHOP!

ALL NEW! TOTALLY ORIGINAL!
BAND-WAGON PRODUCTIONS!
$9.50-00 (FIRST PRINTING)
THOSE NEW WAVE WACKED-OUT KINDA NUTTY LOONY SUBTERRANEAN EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC GARGANTUAN EGO CENTRIC BIGGER THAN LIFE MUTANT COMMANDO TEENAGE HOME WRECKING HEART BREAKING GUT WRENCHING COMPLETELY PSYCHOTIC PUNK ROCKIN' KILLER KIWIS!
HEY YOU KNOBS-- YOU DIDN'T LEAVE ENOUGH ROOM ON THE COVER FOR ME!
BY CHET PEACE